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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Eckhard Bez et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 10/690,112  
FILED : October 21, 2003  
FOR : MULTI-STAGE RECIPROCATING VACUUM  
PUMP AND METHOD...  
EXAMINER: Patrick Hamo GROUP: 3746

Mail Stop: **AMENDMENT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 14, 2006, in which the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 for allegedly being indefinite, rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 as being unpatentable over the prior art, and indicated the claims 3 and 7 would become allowable upon having been rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph (claim 3), and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 3 and 7 is noted and appreciated.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: